

Moran Recognizes Kansas State University's Proud Campaign

February 24, 2010

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize Kansas State University's Proud campaign. K-State Proud was founded in the fall of 2006 as an effort for students to help other students. This year's event will be celebrated this Saturday, February 27, during the Missouri-Kansas State men's basketball game. This is a great concept that reflects our Kansas values of family, community, and stewardship.

There are many people who take college experience for granted. Leaving home to pursue an education is not a given for many families. Certain amounts of financial, emotional, and spiritual support are needed to ensure a student's success. Sometimes bad things happen and students' families fall on hard times. And it's heartbreaking to see a student's dreams and hard work jeopardized by events beyond their control.

The K-State Proud campaign was started in an effort to keep these struggling students in school. It was started by students, for students. Students continue to organize, plan, and execute K-State Proud's activities. This year's co-chairs are Anna Zeiger, Reed Pankratz, and Robert Swift. That is what makes this effort so unique. There are no benefactors or trust funds paying an annuity that funds the tuition or living expenses for a struggling student. This program allows these kids to collect money from their peers and to distribute to those most in need. As a society, we should take a step back and look at what K-State Proud has accomplished. They have had a genuine compassion for complete strangers. They do more than pay lip service to

the concept of charity. They put their money where their mouth is.

For a \$10 donation, the donor receives a K-State Proud t-shirt to be worn for the designated K-State basketball game. Special thanks should be given to GTM for donating the t-shirts and Cox Communications for their generous support. A quarter of a million dollars raised by K-State Proud over the course of 3-plus years emphasizes the enormous impact this campaign has had on K-State's student body. The results are real and undeniable.

K-State Proud allowed a student whose hometown of Greensburg, Kansas, which was destroyed by a tornado, to stay in school despite the enormous loss of life and property. K-State Proud provided support to a cancer survivor that would otherwise have had a difficult time completing a college degree. K-State Proud provides these financial awards while also providing the recipients with an emotional boost to overcome their struggles. Money is a necessity, but knowing that someone recognizes your pain and is there to support you is very powerful as well. This sense of community, that we're all in this together, has made K-State Proud a huge success. Some people worry about the future of our country. When I see the K-State Proud movement at work, I realize that there is a new crop of compassionate, principled leaders preparing themselves to better our State and our Nation.

K-State Proud has become a model for other universities searching for a way to unite their student bodies and communities. People familiar with K-State know how special this university is. It is only fitting that the rest of this country learns how special it is as well. I urge you to tune in to the basketball game this Saturday and witness this student body's commitment to each other.

I have used the word ``proud" many times in these remarks. I'm the proud father of two current K-State students. I'm proud to be associated with such great ambassadors for our State. And I'm proud to be a Kansan. In this case I'm proud to be a K-State Kansan.